

Testimony of Felipe Reinoso

Honorable co chair, Senator Beth Bye and Honorable co chair Representative Roberta Willis and distinguish members of the Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee

As a long time resident of our state, a parent, former school principal and former State Representative, respectfully, I am presenting my testimony in favor of HB.6390.

I had the honor and pleasure to work for our public school system for thirty years, in all these years I worked with demanding administrators, dedicated teachers, concern parents all with the same task: prepare our young students to make decisions and accomplish their aspirations, to have a good education.

Every year during graduation practices, I had ambivalent emotional reactions from part of the graduates, particularly for the decisions that they will have to take after graduation, there was always a group of students that approached me with a singular concern right after graduation, Mr. Reinoso, is the dream over?, through the years hundredths of my kids simply had to comply with the lack of opportunity they were offered, ironically during their elementary and high school careers they demonstrated discipline, respect and confidence in our institutions, unfortunately after finishing successfully their high school, they were denied the benefits afforded to other students in our state, because their parent's immigration standing.

Sadly, we know that too many students drop out of schools, we can reverse this problem, I ask you to picture my kids, "New American" students from our cities attending our state colleges, I am sure that they will serve as catalyst and role models to others in their neighborhoods. By giving this opportunity these talented and motivated students to our colleges we build our economic competitiveness, we straighten in our colleges our research capacity, and we remained on the for front on innovations that are critical to the 21Th century economy.

Since its foundation our state has been home of many outstanding foreign born citizens, I would like to mention just two, Engineer Igor Sikorsky a Kiev - born American immigrant and Astronaut Franklin Chang Díaz a Costa Rican - born American immigrant and Hartford High School graduate, in the same way that they gave back to our state and the country, I know that our young New Americans will honor our state as future responsible professionals and taxpayers that eventually will bring prosperity to their communities.

Please consider this act as an investment for the future, your support will contribute to build an educated society ready to take challenges and responsibilities, respectfully I ask you to support HB: 6390.

Felipe Reinoso